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In the introduction we find a brief summary of the effects of natural conditions on life, and especially on man. Then follow chapters on the various homes of man as determined by natural conditions, under the following titles: The Frozen Desert; the Temperate Forests; the Steppes; the Hot Deserts; the Equatorial Forests; Mountain, Plain and Coast. We then have a chapter devoted to the influence of occupation on forms of society, on dwellings, on clothing, and food. Other chapters are devoted to Agriculture, Rise of the Arts, Rise of Manufactures, Trade and Transport, Distribution of Population, Government and Races of Men.

Some of the later chapters are a little too brief, considering the importance of their titles, and are not as satisfactory as the earlier chapters. On the whole, except for a certain amount of seemingly unnecessary repetition, the book is very pleasing and suggestive, particularly at this time, when so much stress is laid in education on the necessity of so training the child as to make him a better member of society. It should be repeated that this book is not a primary school book, but one of great value for adults.

R. E. D.

Les Derniers Jours de l'Acadie (1748-1758). Correspondances et Mémoires extraits du portefeuille de M. Le Courtois de Surlaville, Lieutenant-Général des Armées du Roi, Ancien Major des troupes de l'Île Royale. Mis en Ordre et Annotés par Gaston Du Boscq de Beaumont.

"For it recalled the past, the old Acadian Country . . ."

LONGFELLOW (*Evangeline*).

Paris, Librairie Historique des Provinces, Emile Lechevalier, 39, Quai des Grands-Augustins, 1899.

M. de Surlaville (Michel Le Courtois) was born at Bayeux in 1714 and died in Paris in 1796. He entered the army, won the Cross of St. Louis at the battle of Fontenoy and rose from grade to grade till he became lieutenant-general at the age of seventy-seven. His advancement was largely due to powerful protectors, but he was none the less endowed with high qualities and a gift for organization.

He was chosen by the Duc de Choiseul to carry out the reforms in the military regulations made necessary by the experience of the Seven Years' War, and it is not too much to say that M. de Surlaville contributed in a measure to the victories won by the soldiers of the Old Monarchy at the outbreak of the Revolution.

After the death of the writer, his memoirs fell to a drunken heir, who pledged them at a wine-shop, and they were sold at last by the pound for old paper. As selected and arranged by M. Du Boscq de Beaumont, they tell a most interesting story of life in Cape Breton and Canada in the last years of the French domination.

M. de Surlaville studies the colony without prejudice and with the greatest good sense, and his observations go to the pith of the matter. He writes, on page 269:

Luxury, so pernicious elsewhere, is necessary to the Acadian. He who has need of nothing, desires nothing. . . The way to induce men to go to work is to suggest new wants to them.

The book is well printed and furnished with Table of Contents, Indices of Persons and of Places and a Map.

A Thousand Days in the Arctic, by Frederick G. Jackson, Knight, First Class, of the Royal Order of St. Olaf; Hon. Corresponding Member of the American Geographical Society, Hon. Corresponding Member of the Società Geografica Italiana, etc.; Author of "The Great Frozen Land," etc. With Preface by Admiral Sir F. Leopold McClintock, R.N., K.C.B., F.R.S., LL.D. Illustrated from Photographs by the Author and Drawings by R. W. Macbeth, A.R.A. Clifford Carleton, Harry C. Edwards, and F. W. Frohawk, from Data furnished by the Author. With Five Original Maps. New York and London, Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1899.

THE AUTHOR'S NOTE says:

This is an unvarnished tale of a thousand consecutive days spent in the Arctic, printed almost word for word as it was written—while the facts and impressions were fresh in my memory—in our hut, or tent, when on sledging and boating journeys in Franz Josef Land.

As Admiral McClintock observes, few explorers have had the opportunity of passing three consecutive years in the Arctic regions, and doing it while it was possible to make their escape.

Even in the Arctic there are varieties of climate, and that of Franz Josef Land, with its sudden extreme changes of temperature, is probably one of the worst in the world. In the Arctic, more than elsewhere, labour is man's salvation, and Mr. Jackson records day by day the occupations in which the time wore away: the morning bath, the hunt and the trimming of joints, the kitchen work, the dressing of skins, the care of the dogs and the ponies and the bear cubs, the sudden alarms, the walks, the climbing of icy cliffs, the observations and the writing of the diary. There was no twiddling of thumbs in Franz Josef Land.